1994

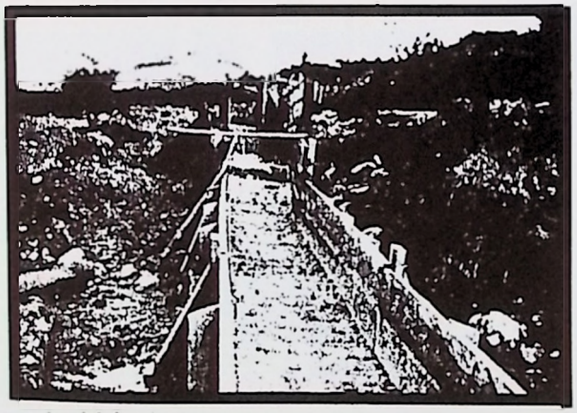
GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1994

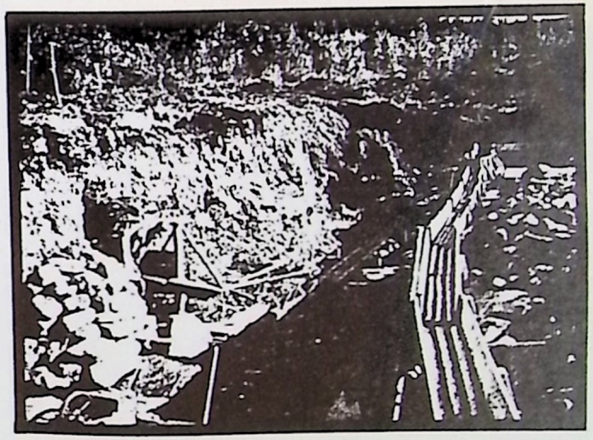
Presents the "Early Years" of Gold Hill "MINING"

COVER PHOTO STORY ON BACK PAGE

1894 Placer mine along Rogue River above Gold Hill. Area Industry Mine operated by
L to R Mr. Potter, Mr. Neff, Sampson Mc Connell Sr. & Mr Dearmond. From glass plate.
S.O.H.S. #755



Sluice-box with transverse riffles.



Sluice-box with longitudinal riffles.

Small-Scale Mining Methods

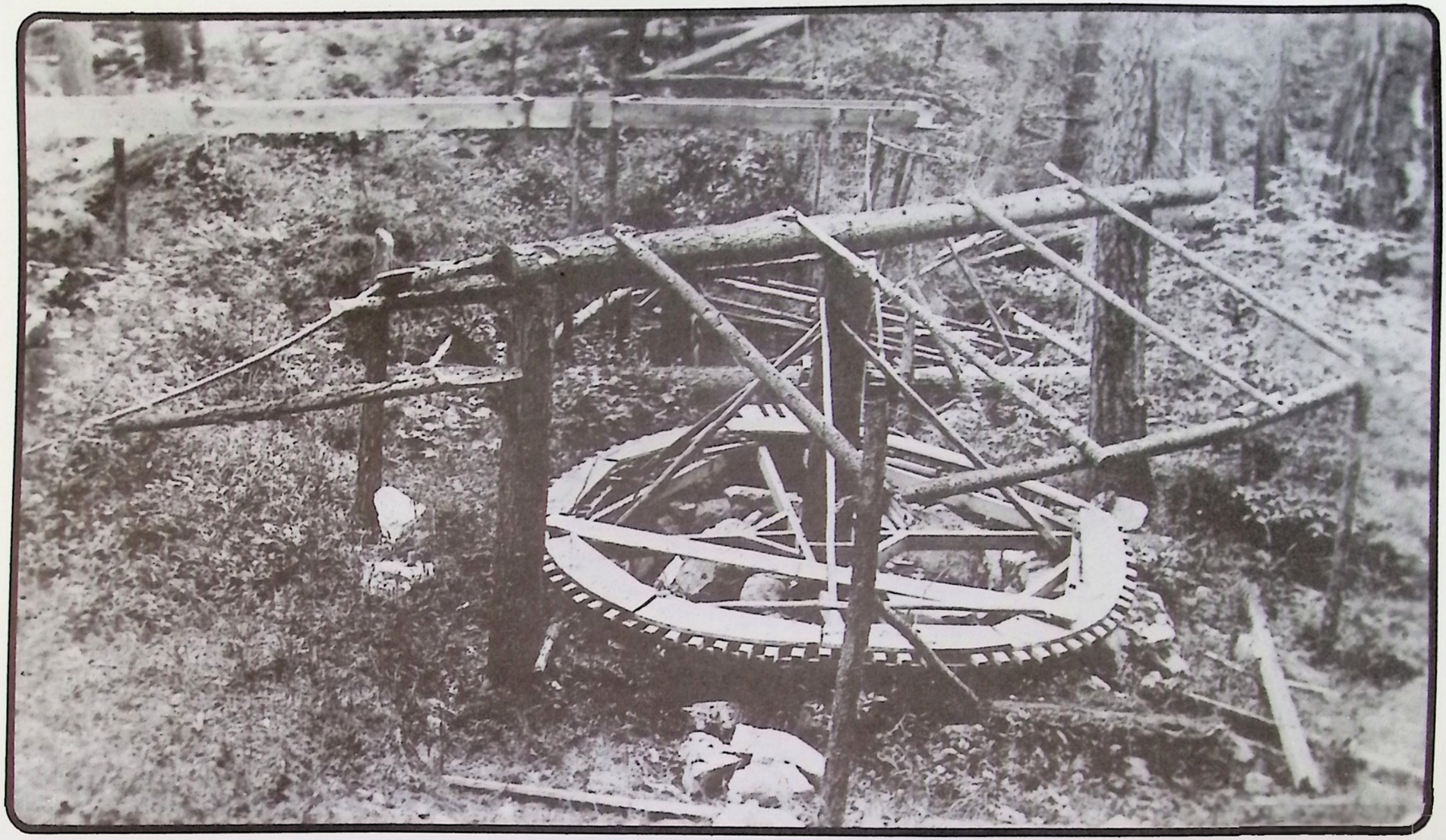
In former years many placers were worked by individuals or partnerships of miners because elaborate equipment was not needed. Picks, shovels, axes, whipsaws, and perhaps wheels for making wheelbarrows were about all the tools required. There are still some opportunities for this kind of mining.

Sluice box photos of early day Creek mining.
Courtesy Art Goss #411

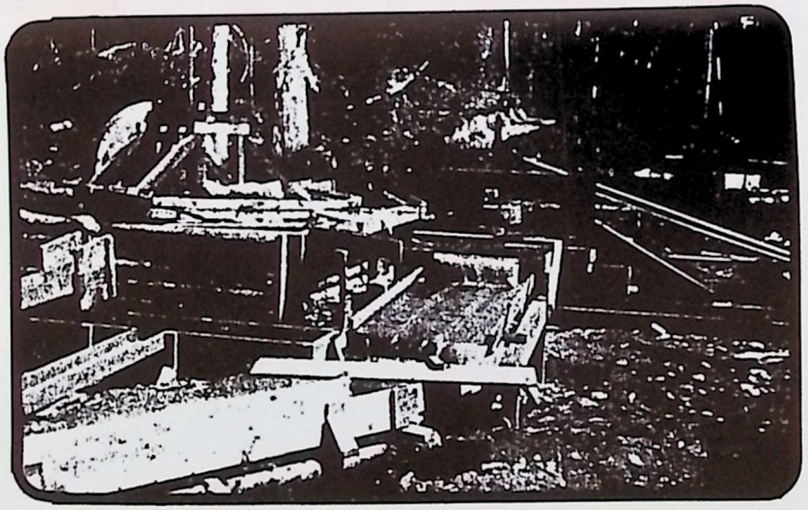
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		1910 W.P. Bailey is Veteran Foots creek miner			1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	20 First meeting G.H.H.S 1986	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

Early miners started young: Unidentified youth shown working the family backyard sluicebox. Courtesy Ruth (Starns) Harmon G.H.H.S. #796

January 1994



An ARRASTRA used to crush quartz & base ore. An inefficient but effective way to extract gold from the rock. Operated on Galls creek in the late 1800s
by Robt. Shaw & Ike Burris. S.O.H.S. #972



Arrastra at the Turnaround Mine on Foots Creek around 1900

Courtesy Art Goss

A water powered mill & crusher in the 1920s. Thought to be on Evans Cr.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 32/333	2 33/332	3 34/331	4 35/330 1908 Geo. Haff at Blossom mine on Sardine Cr.	5 Constitution Day (Mexico) 36/329
6 37/328	7 38/327	8 39/326	9 40/325	10 41/324	11 42/323	12 43/322
13 44/321	14 St. Valentine's Day 45/320 1859 Oregon statehood	15 46/319	16 Ash Wednesday 47/318 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	17 48/317	18 49/316	19 50/315
20 51/314	21 Presidents' Day 52/313	22 Washington's Birthday 53/312	23 54/311	24 55/310	25 56/309	26 57/308
27 58/307	28 59/306					

JANUARY

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MARCH

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Hand drilling hole for powder.
Two men striking & one holding.
Prior to power drilling.
Location un-known

Courtesy Art Goss 1411

February 1994

Braden mine crew in 1910. Back row 3rd from left, Ike Coy w/mustach, 6th from right John Mardon, 5th from right Merton Coffman, Lady is Iola Mardon, front row 3rd from right Art Boggis, 2nd is Al Boggis, 1st Ed Shoemaker, 3rd from left Perry Knotts. Boy is John T. Mardon, now 87. Girl is John's sister Elsie (Mardon) Cameron. courtesy John T. Mardon G.H.H.S. #401

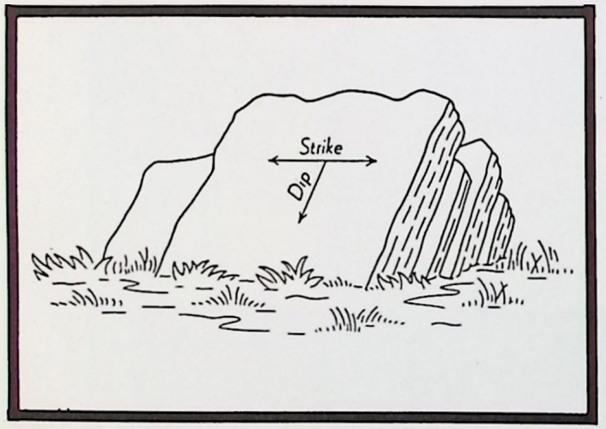
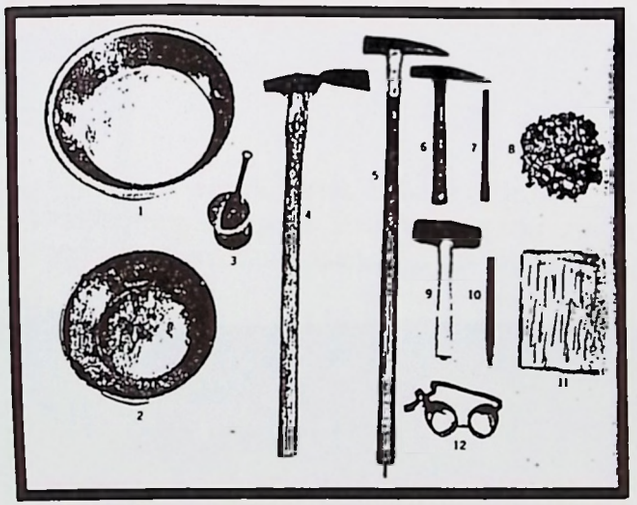


Diagram showing an outcrop of beds of sedimentary rocks to illustrate directions in which dip and strike are measured.



Examples of prospecting equipment and a chip-sample. 1, large gold-pan; 2, medium-size pan; 3, steel mortar and pestle, 4, grub-hoe; 5, long-handled prospecting pick; 6, ordinary prospecting pick; 7, rock chisel; 8, chip-sample; 9, single-jack; 10, mail; 11, canvas sample-bag; 12, goggles for protecting eyes when sampling.

To the layman, any horizontal opening is a tunnel. Strictly speaking, however, a tunnel is open at both ends, like a railway tunnel. One that is driven into a hillside and open at one end only, as is usual in mining, is properly called an *adit*. Horizontal openings driven from an adit or a shaft are given the group name of *laterals*, but are further designated as *drifts* if they follow along a vein or other deposit, and *cross-cuts* if they are driven to probe a deposit at right-angles to its strike. An opening driven upward from an adit or lateral is called a *raise*, and one driven downward is called a *winze*.

Before diamond drilling became as usual a method of exploration as it is today, exploration shafts and adits were more common during initial stages than they are now. They were often driven with hand steel, and many were just wide enough for a man to work in or crawl through. Small workings of this kind are popularly called 'gopher holes' or 'coyote holes'; they are now almost a thing of the past, because machinery is cheaper than labour. Nowadays, if underground exploration is required, shafts are usually made fairly large and laterals are driven wide and high enough to permit use of air drills and mine cars.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1911 H.A.Mears has opened the Revenue mine on Kanes creek.	1 60/305	2 61/304	3 62/303	4 63/302	5 64/301
6 65/300	7 66/299	8 67/298	9 68/297	10 69/296	11 70/295	12 71/294
13 72/293	14 73/292	15 74/291	16 75/290 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	17 St. Patrick's Day 76/289	18 77/288	19 78/287
20 79/286	21 Benito Juarez Birthday (Mexico) 80/285	22 81/284	23 82/283 1895 W.A.Marvin new engineer at Oxley mine	24 83/282	25 84/281	26 85/280
27 Palm Sunday Passover 86/279	28 87/278	29 88/277	30 89/276	31 90/275		

FEBRUARY

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27	28					

APRIL

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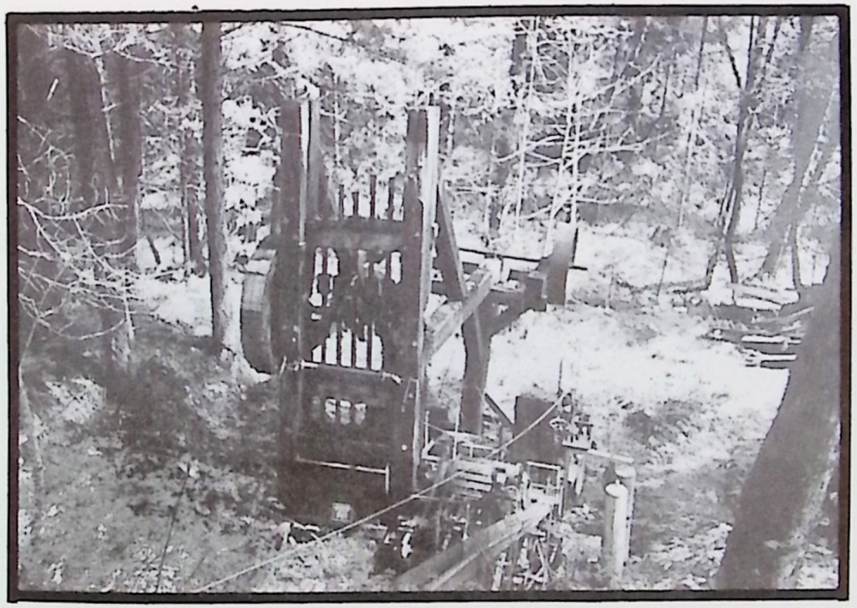
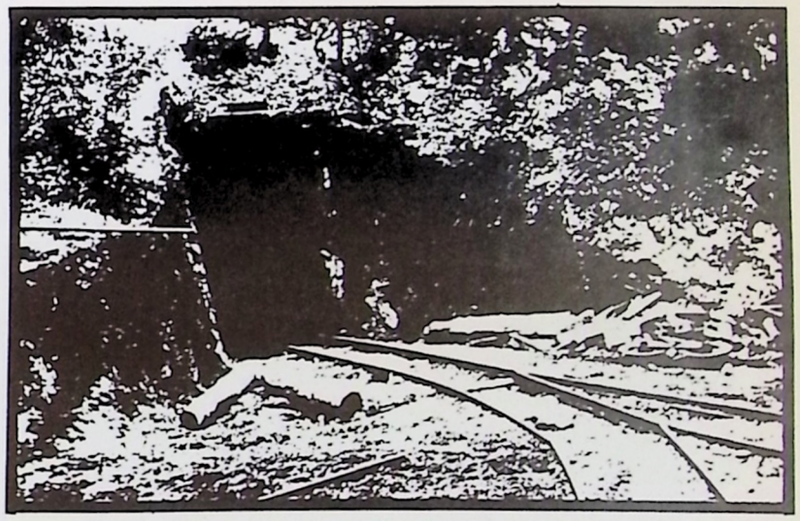
March 1994

Jim Lively at tunnel, Lively Lime mine on Kane's creek courtesy Winona (Shoemaker) Nichols G.H.H.S. #387

1910 Photo of Grey Eagle mine mill building containing Rod mill, Jaw crusher and Stamp mill. Located above House of Mystery on west fork of Sardine Creek. Owner Wm. Van Houten shown on right with 5 unidentified workers setting up a boiler. G.H.H.S. #402
courtesy Iris Dusenberry Kendall



5 stamp mill ½ mile above Mystery House. Mill from Lucky Bart mine nearby. Courtesy Kelly Adams G.H.H.S. #404



August 1910 photo of the lower tunnel at the Grey Eagle mine on w/fork of Sardine Creek. Ore car in tunnel. courtesy Iris Kendall G.H.H.S. #403

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Labor Day (Mexico) 121/244	2 122/243 1907 Lucky Bart mine Bart won't allow Ed Hughes to eat beans in tunnel.	3 123/242	4 124/241	5 125/240	6 126/239	7 127/238
8 Mother's Day 128/237	9 129/236	10 130/235	11 131/234	12 132/233	13 133/232 7:00 AM Roberts	14 134/231
15 135/230	16 136/229	17 137/228	18 138/227 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	19 139/226	20 140/225	21 141/224 1907 Rich strike made at Lucky Bart Ore $700 per ton
22 142/223	23 Victoria Day (Canada) 143/222	24 144/221	25 145/220	26 146/219	27 147/218	28 148/217
29 149/216	30 Memorial Day 150/215	31 151/214 1906 Huke & Bellamy mine mill starts full operation				

APRIL

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JUNE

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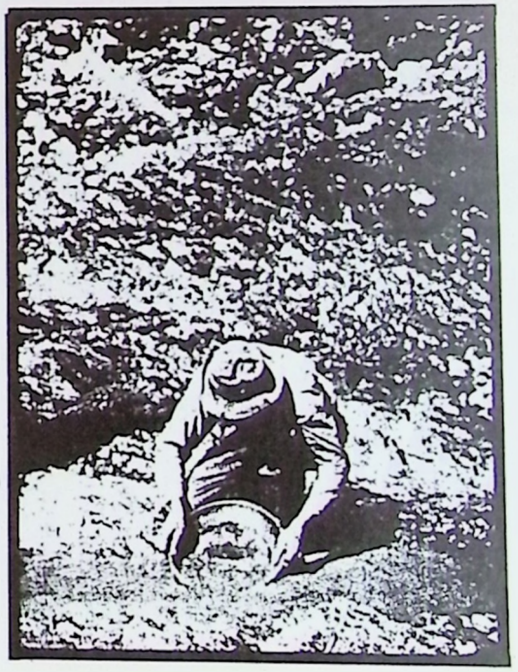
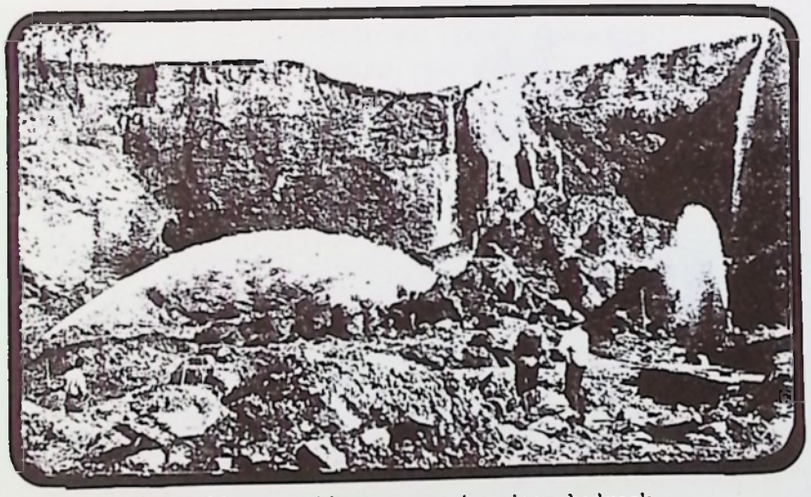
26	27	28	29	30		



Mine workers panned at every chance. Do you recognize this man panning in Sardine Creek? G.H.H.S. files #411

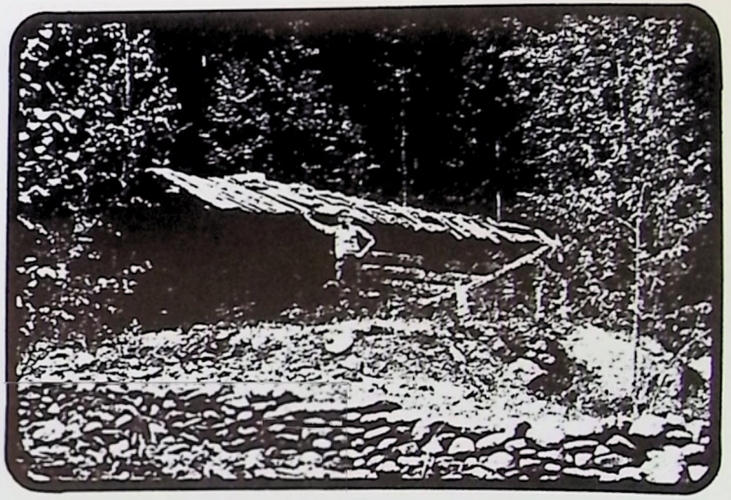
May 1994

Hydraulic "Giant" operated by Ingrahm & Houston on Willow Springs creek around 1900.
Water pressure flushed away overburden (dirt), uncovering gold deposits in bedrock.
courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society #1848



Hydraulic operation uncovering deep bedrock. Layers of gravel above bedrock were also sluiced to recover the free gold. Miners unknown, thought to be on Foots creek.

#412 from H.E. Wharton files



Site of early small-scale placer operation, sluice-boxes not visible. Boulders moved and piled by hand to permit reaching gold, probably for recovery by a rocker or by shovelling into a sluice-box.

Courtesy Art Goss

Another simple method, practical in some cases, is to sluice overburden or gold-bearing gravel by diverting a stream or part of it. If the amount of water is small, it is sometimes impounded and released periodically in the method called 'booming'

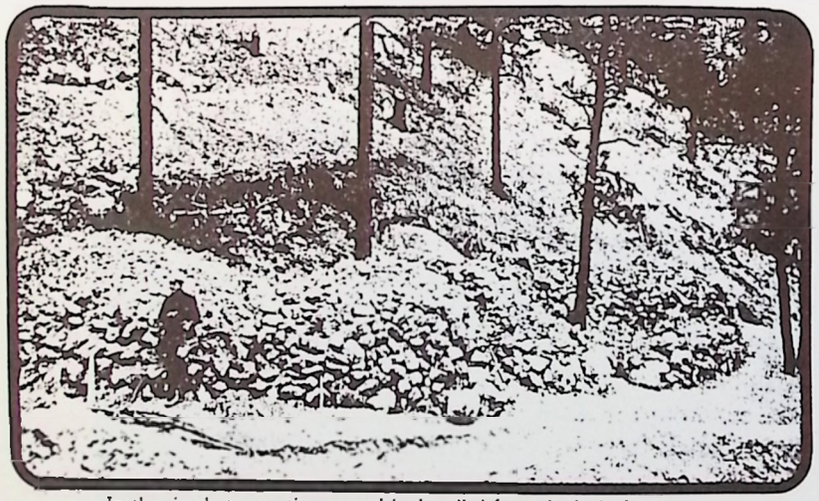
A crib-dam and boom-gate used as an aid in removing overburden.

Courtesy Art Goss #411

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1907 Electric shovel installed at Centennial Mine on Kanes creek.	1 152/213	2 153/212	3 154/211	4 155/210
5 156/209	6 157/208	7 158/207	8 159/206	9 160/205	10 161/204	11 162/203
12 163/202	13 164/201	14 Flag Day 165/200	15 166/199 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	16 167/198	17 168/197	18 169/196
19 Father's Day 170/195	20 171/194	21 172/193	22 173/192	23 174/191	24 175/190	25 176/189
26 177/188	27 178/187	28 179/188	29 180/185	30 181/184		

June 1994

Late 1890s photo of the crew at the Hammersly Placer mine on middle fork Sardine Creek. Not much is known of this mine but the Hammersley's were well known and respected citizens of the Gold Hill area in the early years. S.O.H.S. #1659



In the simplest operations gravel is shovelled from the bed of a stream or from a bank and placed directly in the gold-saving device, large boulders being rolled aside or stacked. Such piles of boulders can be seen in many places along western streams, marking the sites of early placer mining Courtesy Art Goss

Early photo of the Hammersley mine. Gold was scarce and wages were low. Sometime around 1900 H.E. Wharton files #412

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1895 Geo. Hammersley running his placer mine–middle fork Sardine Cr.		

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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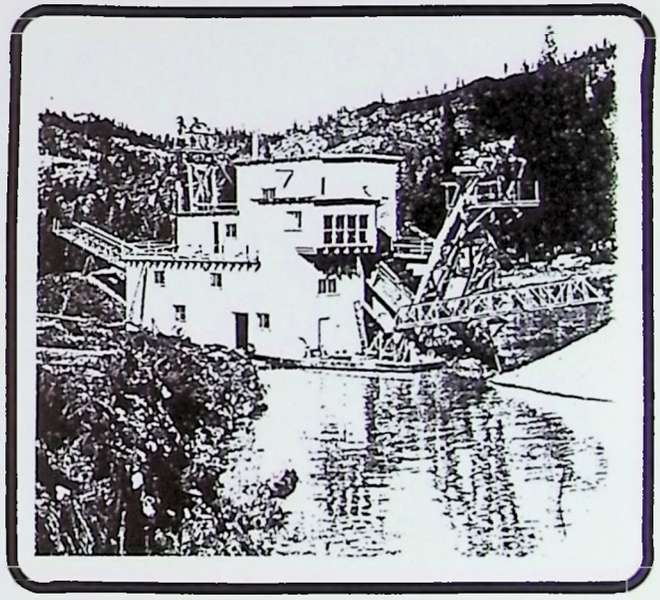
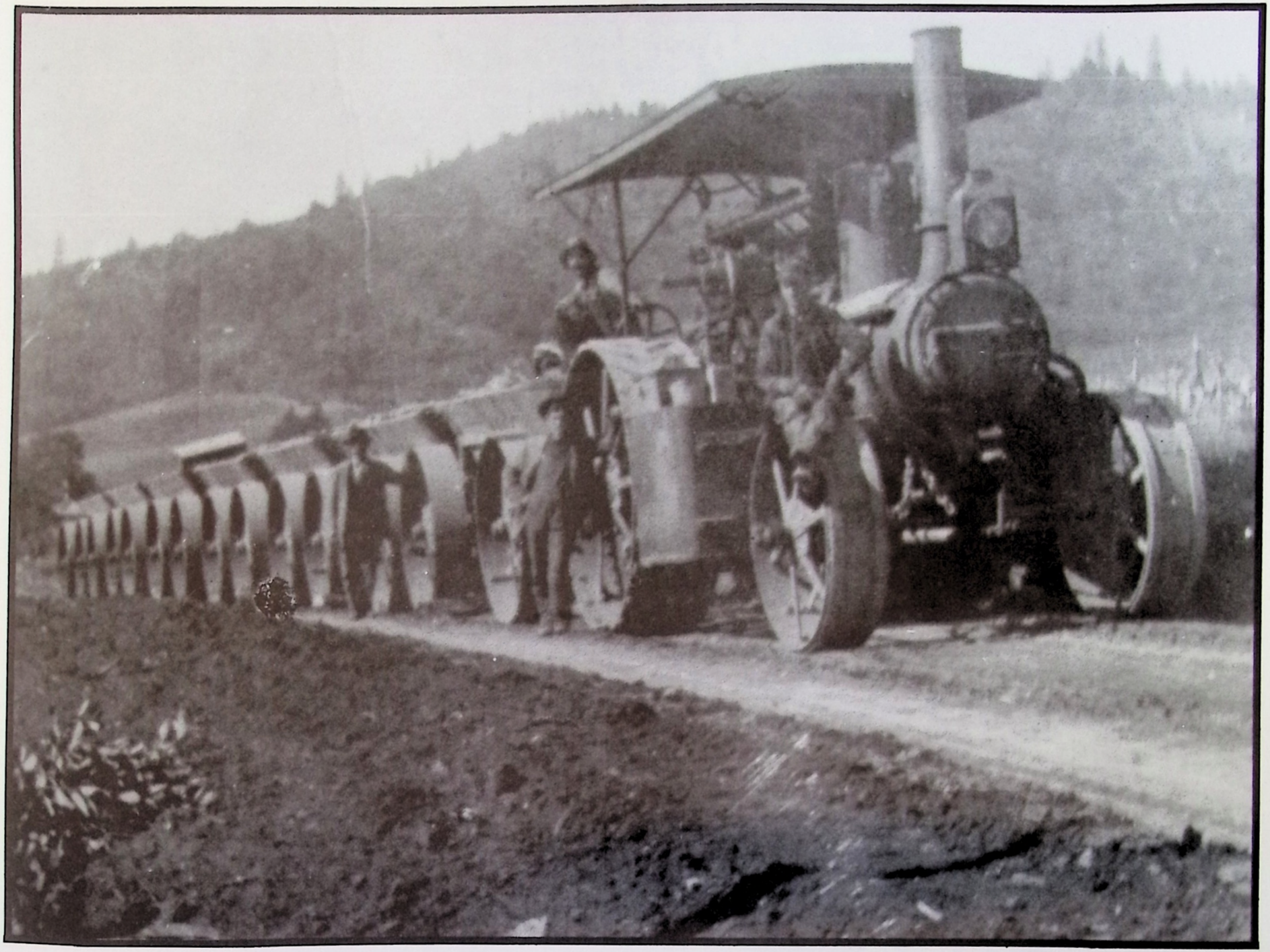


Murphy-Murray dredge on Foots Creek, Jackson County. Capacity 4,000 cubic yards daily, electric powered, 67 buckets of 3½ foot capacity; dug 20 feet below water line.
Courtesy Oregon State Dept. Geology & Mineral Industries

August 1994



Early 1900 photo of Braden Mine ore train on what is now Foley Rd. Note steam tractor.
Ore hauled from mine west of Kanes creek to mill near water source on Blackwell hill.
courtesy Linda Genaw G.H.H.S. #408

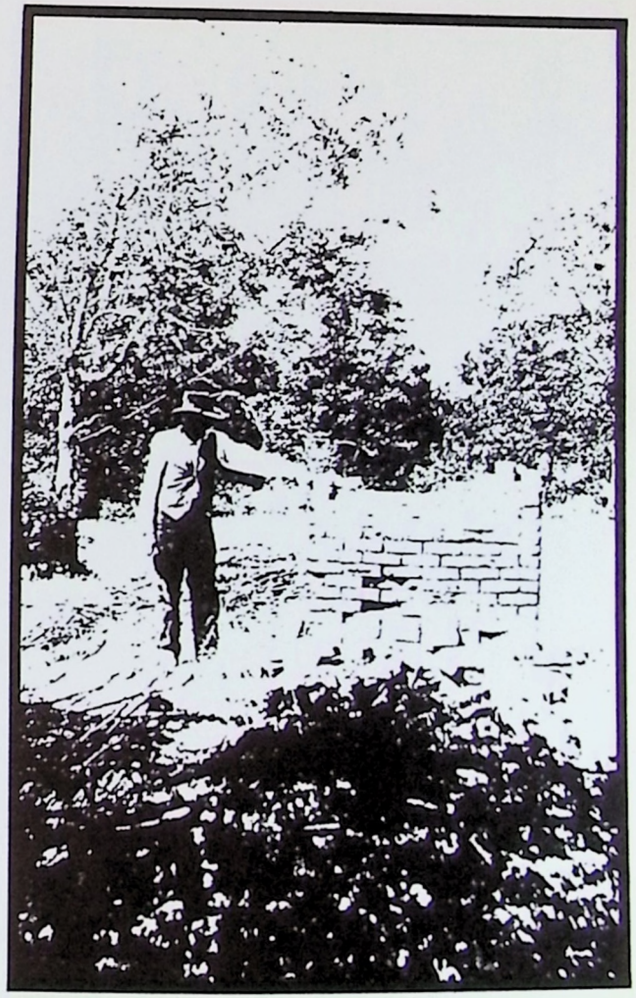
Placer mining with a power-shovel and bulldozer. Movable sluice-box at left.

from H.E. Wharton files #412

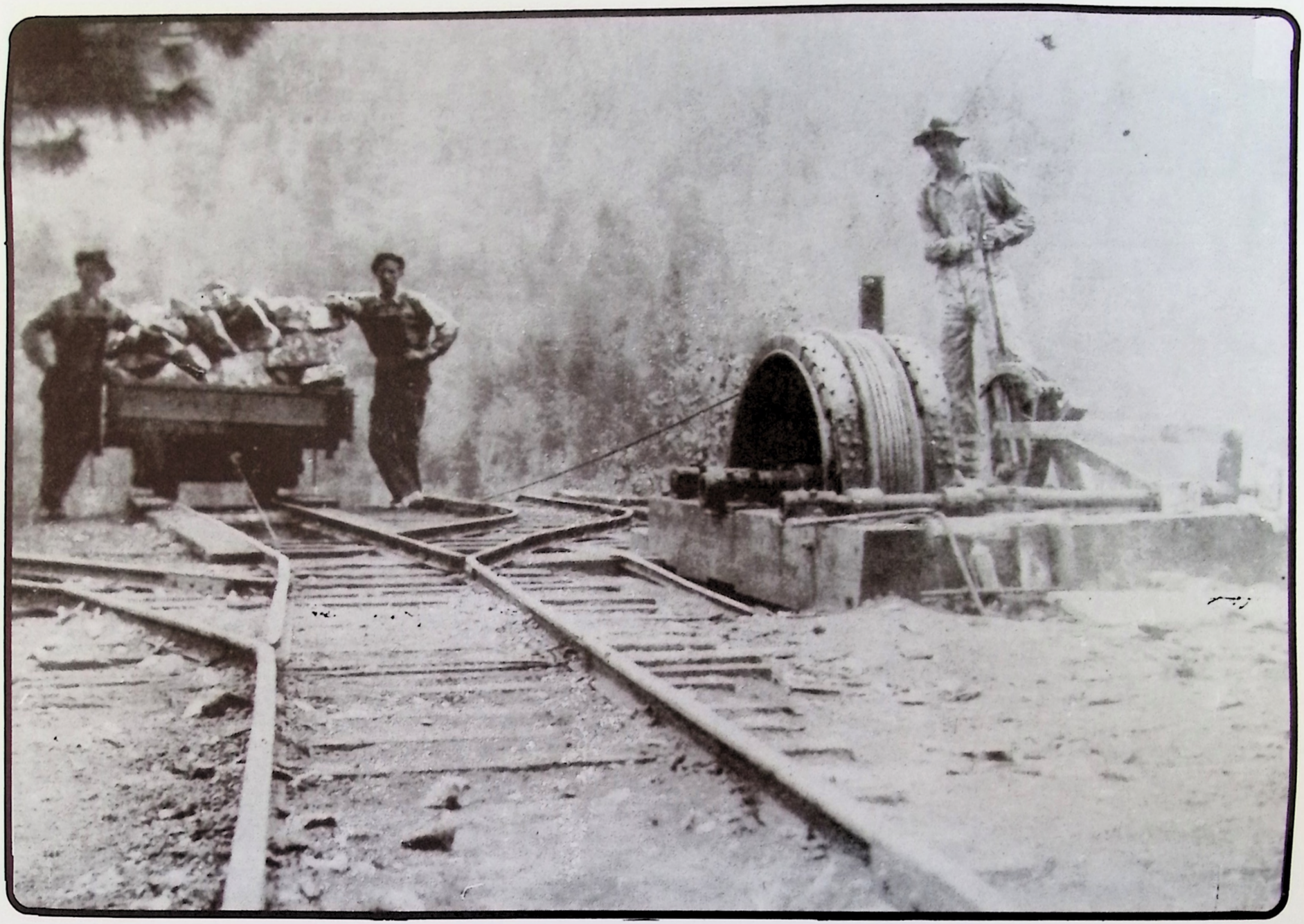
The Braken mine, 2 miles south of Gold Hill on Kanes Creek was discovered by B.A. Knotts in 1885. He sold to Dr. James Braden who operated the mine till he leased to Opp mines in 1907. Records show $50,000 in gold taken out up to that time. No positive records are of later working but it is known that Nick Nichols, an assayer and H.E.Wharton did exploratory work in the early 1920s.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1907 Lucky Bart mine produces hi-grade ore for 15 years.	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Rosh Hashanah	7	8	9	10
11 Grandparents Day	12	13	14	15 Yom Kippur	16 Independence Day (Mexico)	17
18	19	20	21 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September 1994



Aug. 9, 1923 photo of George Hall pointing to remains at the Centennial mine on Kanes Creek. G.H.H.S. #502 courtesy Ben Horner



Tram & hoist at the Lively Lime quarry on Kanes creek around 1930. Steam engine, not in photo operated the works. Note wooden blocks on the friction bands used as brake & clutch. Men in photo not identified. This was a large industry in Gold Hill for many years.
courtesy Winona (Shoemaker) Nichols G.H.H.S. #381

Wood fired burner used to process lime rock. Lively Lime works on Kanes Creek in the 1930s courtesy Winona Nichols G.H.H.S. #377

Scene showing vintage dump truck at Lively Lime works on Kanes Creek in late 1920s courtesy Winona Nichols G.H.H.S. #378

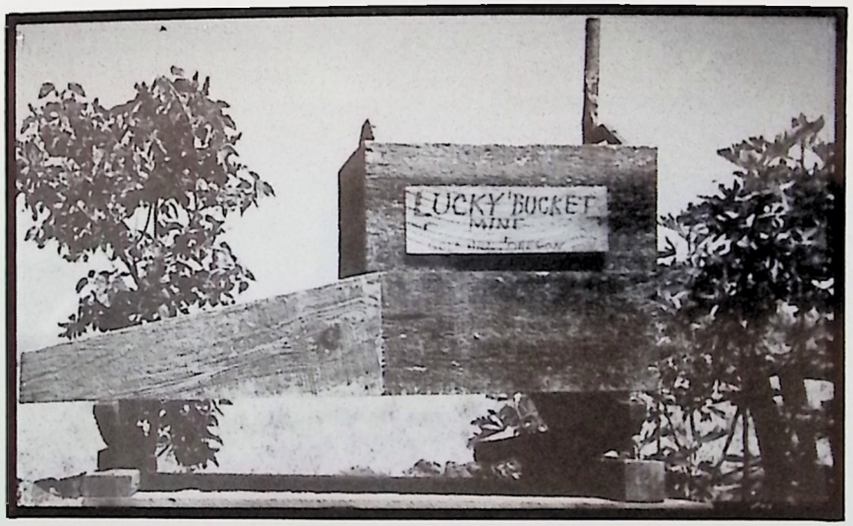
Unidentified workers leaning on mine car at Lively Lime works in 1930 G.H.H.S. #385 courtesy Winona Nichols

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1911 Dr. Chisholm buys mine at the Meadows. Moves to Woodville.		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day Observance Thanksgiving Day (Canada)	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

Lloyd & Mrs. Cook and unidentified friend at their Cherokee Mine along Rogue River. Photo sometime in the 1920s. Note piles of boulders, probably hand picked to uncover pay dirt. Some evidence indicates use of hydraulic giants to remove overburden.

courtesy Ben Horner

G.H.H.S. #501

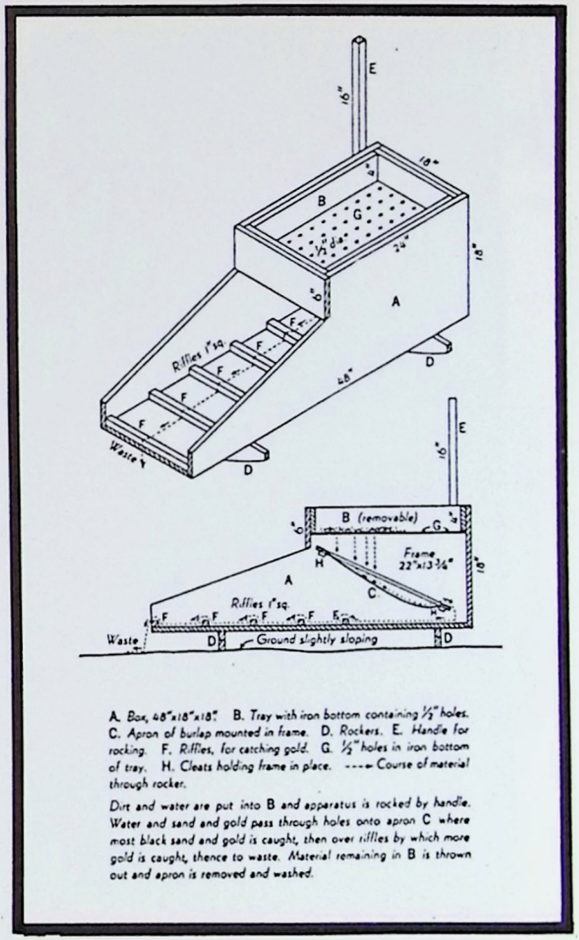


Replica of a Gold Rocker or Nugget Trap like used by many miners. This rocker built by Ted Wharton won first place in the Gold Dust Days parade for the G.H.H.S. entry.
G.H.H.S. #409

Equipment for Recovering Placer Minerals

A common device for separating the gold obtained in small operations, called a rocker, is somewhat the size and shape of a cradle. One can be made from a few pieces of board, a piece of coarse screen or sheet iron with holes drilled or punched in it, and a piece of canvas, burlap, blanket, or some other cloth having a nap, which is necessary to catch fine gold. Rockers are of slightly different designs and sizes, the larger ones being used when most of the gold is fine grained, because the longer box is then more efficient. A medium-sized one is illustrated

* The Greek legend of Jason and the Golden Fleece is based on the early practice of using sheepskins for catching fine particles of gold.



A. Box, 48"x18"x18". B. Tray with iron bottom containing ½" holes. C. Apron of burlap mounted in frame. D. Rockers. E. Handle for rocking. F. Riffles, for catching gold. G. ½" holes in iron bottom of tray. H. Cleats holding frame in place. ---- Course of material through rocker.

Dirt and water are put into B and apparatus is rocked by handle. Water and sand and gold pass through holes onto apron C where most black sand and gold is caught, then over riffles by which more gold is caught, thence to waste. Material remaining in B is thrown out and apron is removed and washed.

Diagram illustrating construction and mode of operation of a rocker.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Nov. 19, 1910 Forresters start operation of Sardine drege	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day Remembrance Day (Canada)	12
13	14	15	16 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	17	18	19
20 Revolution Day (Mexico)	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 Nov. 22, 1913 Black Channel mine Foots Creek. Wm. Laddington, 88 Killed by dynamite explosion	28 Hanukah	29	30 OVERHEARD in 1929 (Wilmer) Whatcha bin doin Merrit? (Merrit) Minin (Wilmer) Whatcha bin minin? (Merrit) Minin my own bizness			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

DECEMBER

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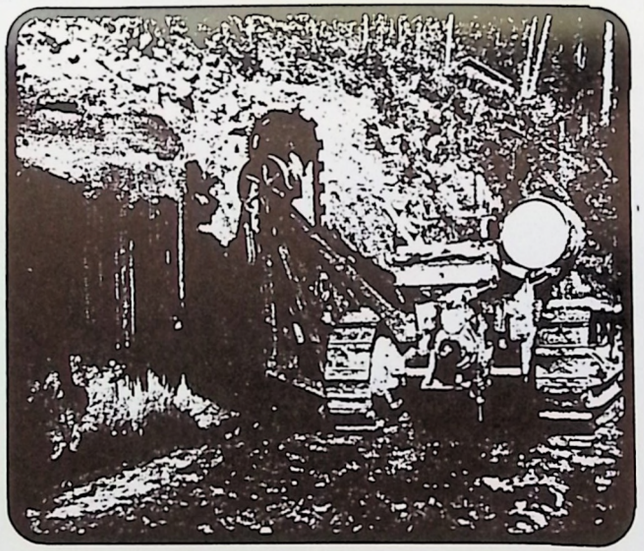
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 1994

400 ft. deep shaft at the Millionaire mine in Sect. 31 & 36, Township 36S, Range 2 & 3 west. Mine had 4000 ft. of tunnels and 3 shafts 400 ft., 262 ft. & 200 ft. Mine closed in 1922 with production figures unknown. Tunnels are now caved in & shafts nearly full of water.
courtesy Earl Morris Photo by Linda Genaw G.H.H.S. #410



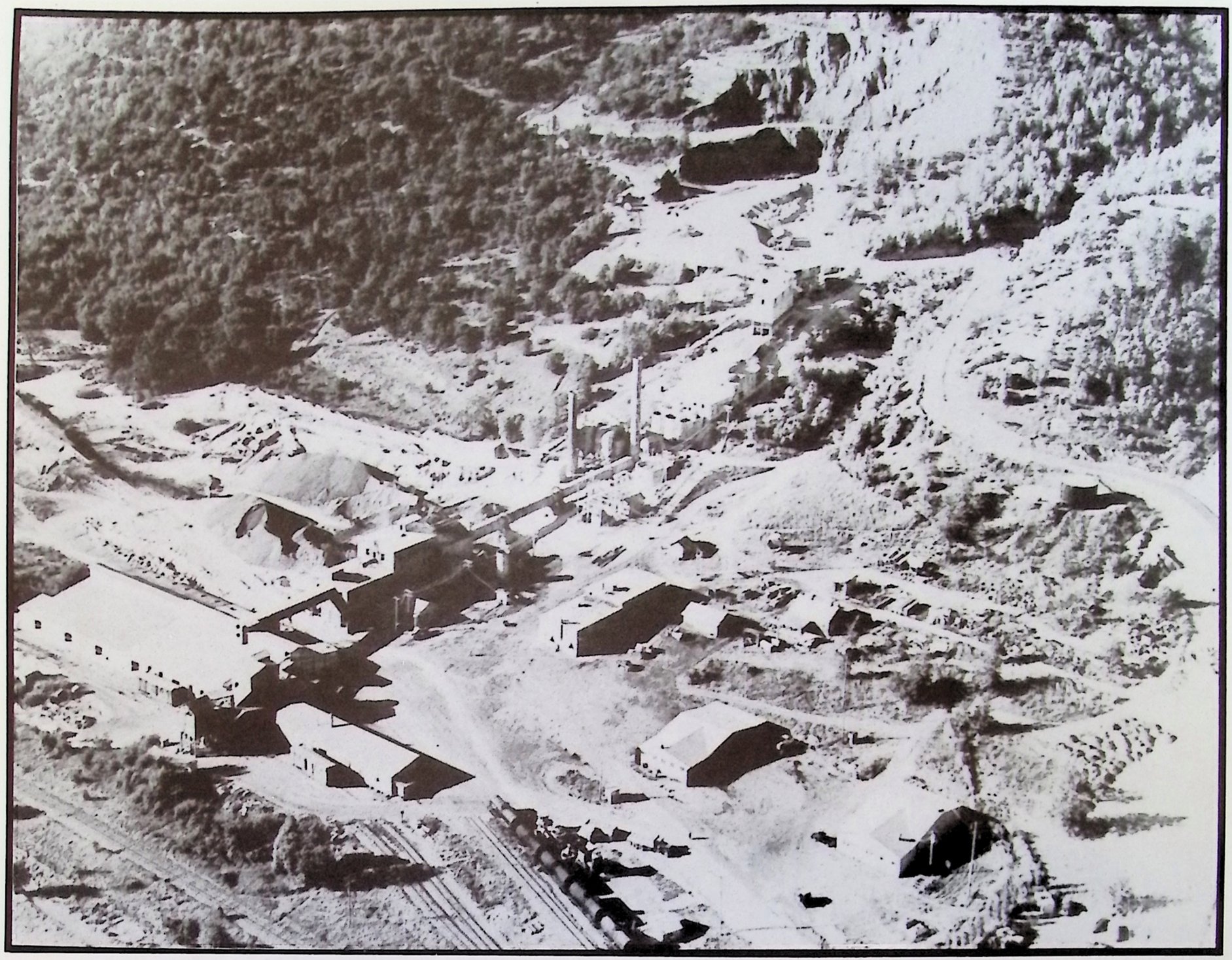
Early vintage mechanized mining machine built on a converted crawler tractor. Thought to be used to open up veins for exploration. courtesy Art Goss #411

George Hall pointing to where he took out a pocket at his Centennial Mine in 1923. There is very little information on this mine which was on Kanes Creek. courtesy Ben Horner G.H.H.S. #503

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1 335/30	2 336/29	3 337/28
4 338/27	5 339/26	6 340/25	7 341/24	8 342/23	9 343/22	10 344/21
11 345/20	12 346/19	13 347/18	14 348/17 Dec. 1910 Rhoten & McGee working the Centennial	15 349/16	16 350/15	17 351/14
18 352/13	19 353/12	20 354/11	21 355/10 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	22 356/9	23 357/8	24 358/7
25 Christmas 359/6 Dec. 1851 Gold discovered in Jacksonville's Rich gulch by Jim Poole & Jim Cluggage	26 360/5	27 361/4	28 362/3	29 363/2	30 364/1	31 365/0

Information on back page
courtesy Geo. Tulare
G.H.H.S. #86

December 1994



Aerial view of Ideal Cement Company plant at Gold Hill. Originally called Beaver Portland Coment company, it was a mainstay of Gold Hill and Southern Oregon economy for many years. Note quarry at upper right for extracting shale. Another quarry was at Marble mountain which produced lime. courtesy Raymond Ritter Plant permanently closed April 1967 G.H.H.S. #084

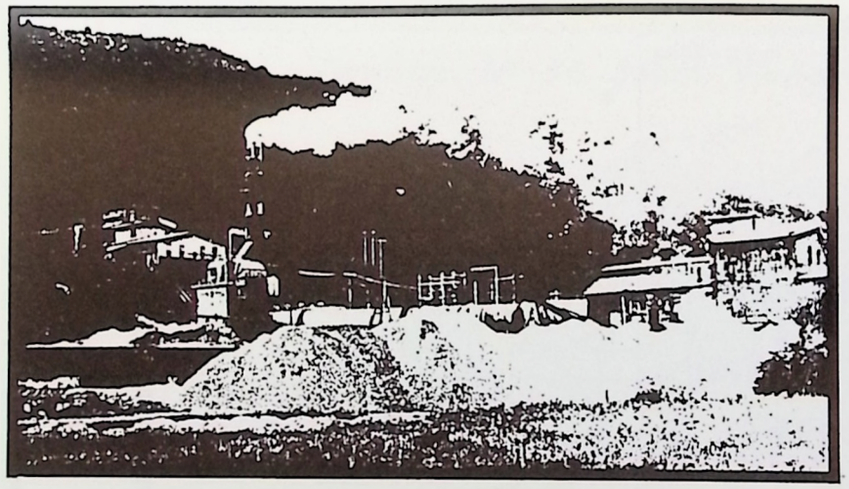
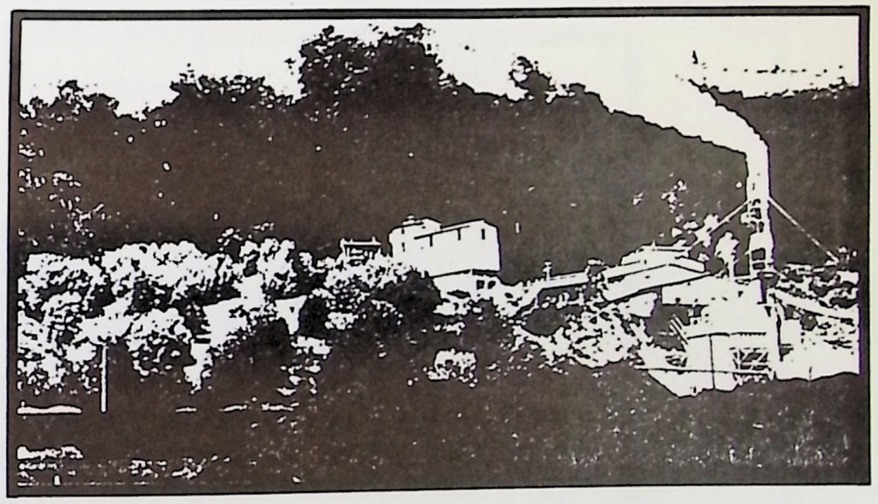


Photo of clinker piles at Ideal Cement plant during the boom years of production Courtesy Raymond Ritter G.H.H.S. #686



1956 Photo of Cement Plant in full blast. Tram house & crusher shows on hill. When plant closed it was an economic shock to the community. G.H.H.S. #885 courtesy Raymond Ritter

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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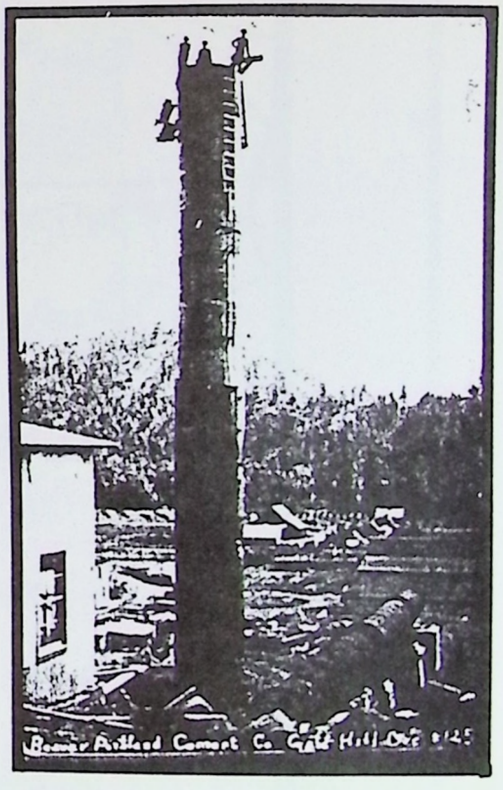
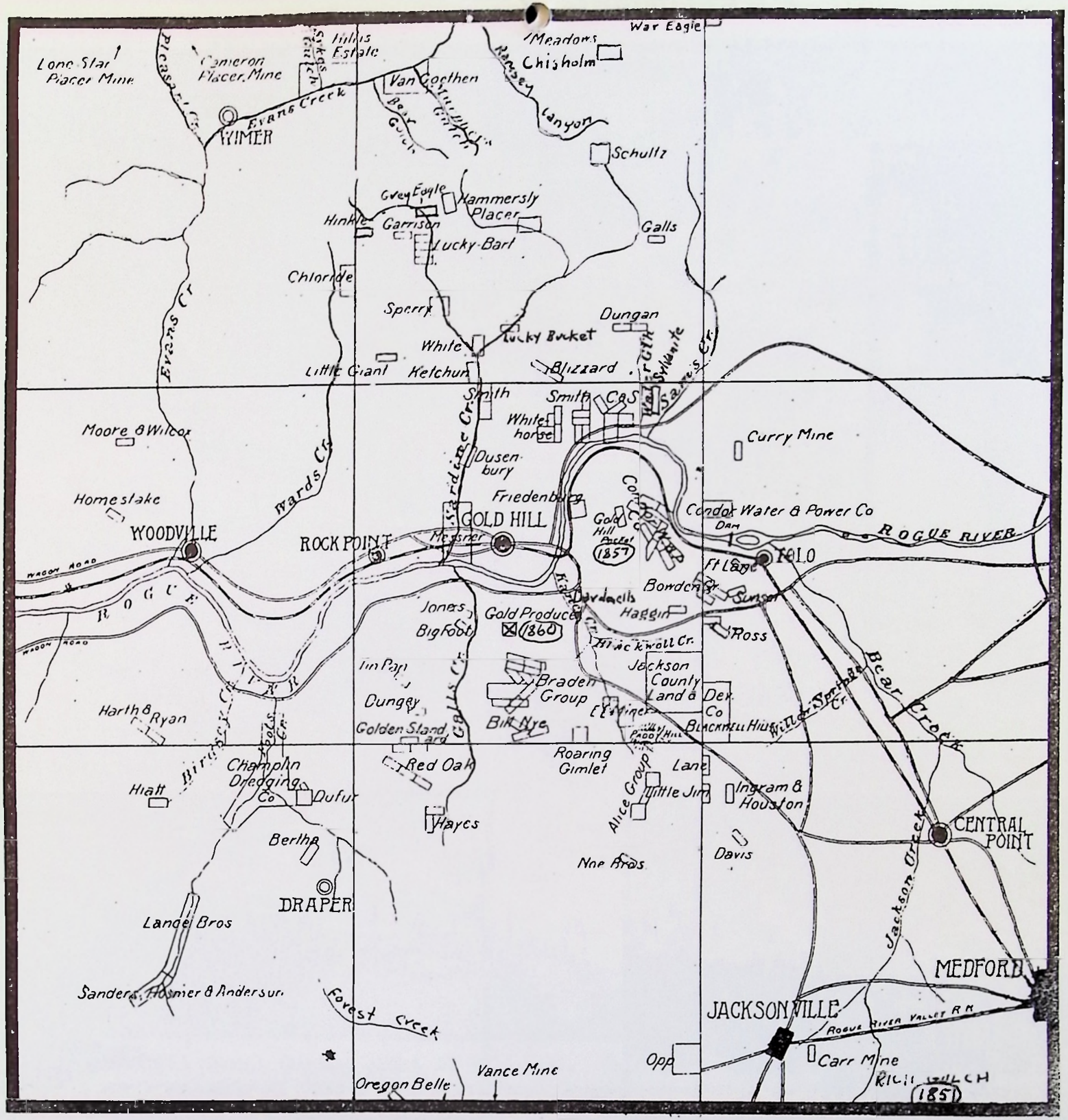
15	16	17	18 7:00 P.M. Gold Hill Historical Society meeting.	19	20	21
22	23 Victoria Day (Canada)	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

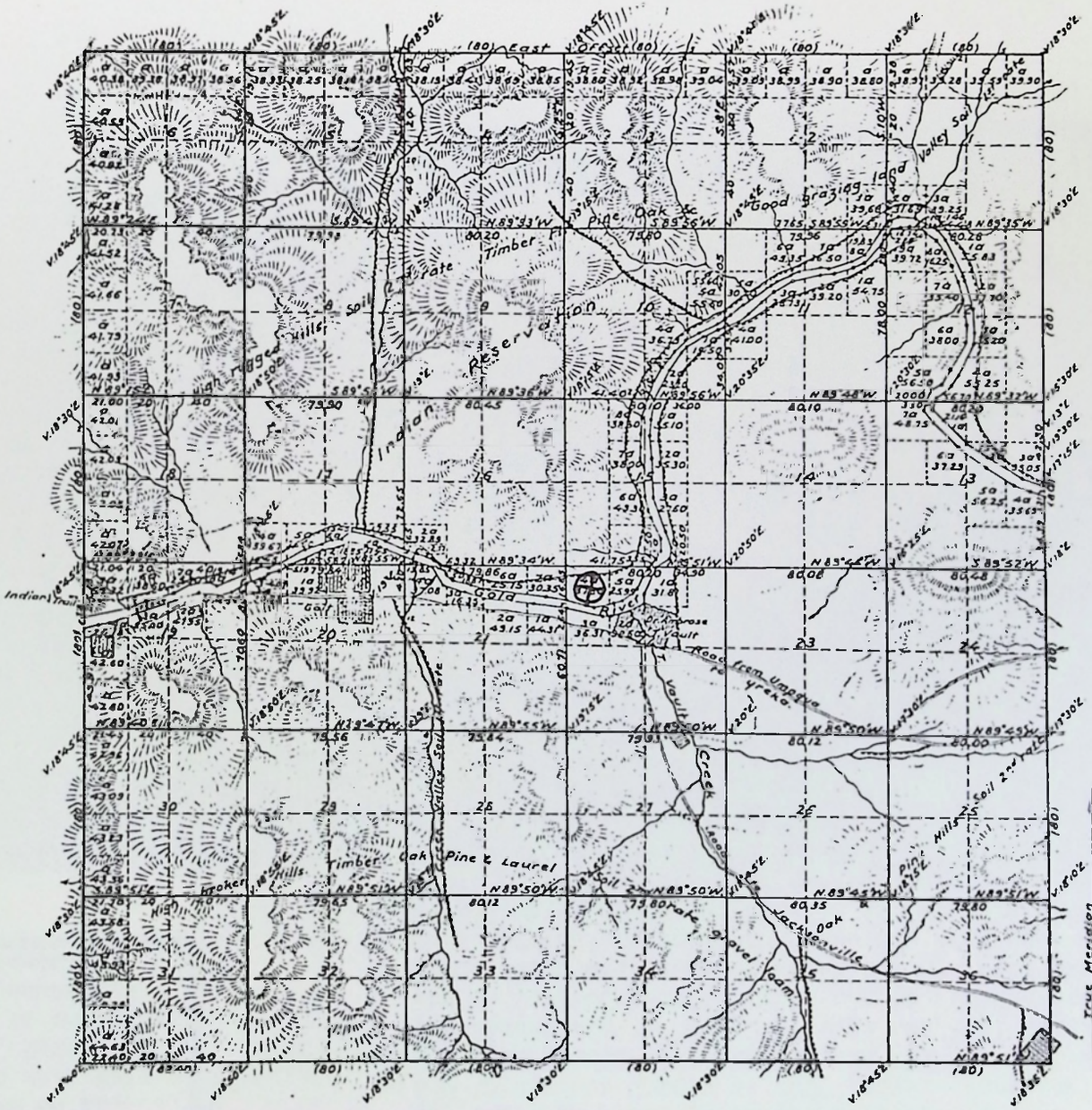


1915 photo of original construction. Shown on stack are Ralph Dusenberry, climbing, John Hammersley top, right an 2 unidentified men. G.H.H.S.#349 courtesy Ida Dusenberry Tilley



1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area

Township No 36 South, Range No 3 West, Willamette Meridian, Oregon.



Surveys designated	By whom surveyed	Contract No.	Contract Date	Amount of surveys Miles	chains	links	When surveyed	When charged in the Sur.Gen'ls. Accounts
Township Lines	Ives and Hyde.	39	Jany. 4th, 1854	12	02	40	Dec. 25th, 1854.	4th Qr., 1854
Subdivisions	Ives and Hyde	39	Jany. 4th, 1854	60	03	13	Jany, 16th, 1855.	1st Qr., 1855
Meanders	" "	"	" "	18	38	89		
Total number of acres	22,807.06	Number of acres in Indian Reservation		9,392.38				

⊕ Future site of Gold Hill

The above Map of Township No. 36 South of Range No. 3 West of the Willamette Meridian, Territory of Oregon, is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereof on file in this office which have been examined and approved.
Surveyor General's Office,
Salem, January 16th, 1855. (signed) O. K. Gardner
Surv.Gen. of Oregon.

Public Survey Office,
Portland, Oregon,
September 14, 1928
I certify the above to be a correct copy of the original plat on file in this office.
Joseph A. Gaump
Office Cadastral Engineer.

Cover Photo explanation:
Hydraulic giant operation at mouth of Sardine Creek in 1904. Robt. Lane Dusenberry, standing, center front operated the mine. He had 6 sons who worked with him on his many ventures. His sons were Cal, Joe, Sam, Smith(Toots), Robt., & Ralph. Most or all are in the Photo. Photo courtesy Iris (Dusenberry) G.H.H.S. #400 Kendall

SYLVANITE MINE

Discovered in 1890 the main shaft which reports show produced $1000 per ft. went 900' deep before the vein turned toward the river. The lead was still strong when the tunnel flooded. Located off Hy.234, no useable photo was found. Nearly $900.000.00 was taken out by 1900 which would be over 20 million today.

LUCKY BART MINE

Discovered in 1890 on Sardine creek, by Bart Signoretti and Joe Cox. J.H. Beeman became owner in 1892 and operated till 1912. Now owned by Kelly Adams who bought from Beeman's son in 1955 and still owns. Many shafts & tunnels followed faulted veins with good pay dirt. Much machinery and mine cars were stolen over the years.

BRADEN MINE

Discovered in 1885 2 mi. S of Gold Hill on Kanes creek & produced over $300.000.00 by 1917. Discovered by B.A. Knotts then sold to Dr. James Braden. Braden later sold to C.R. Ray of Tolo. Had first all electric mill in area. Records vary on value of gold removed.

THE GOLD HILL POCKET MINE

Discovered in 1857 by hired hand of Thomas Chavener prounced "Cavenaugh" thought to be one James Hayes. Accounts on file at S.O.H.S. however credit the find to Emigrant Graham and partners, hence the name "Emigrant Lead". The mine is located on Gold Hill mountain in s/w $\frac{1}{4}$ of n/e $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 14, T36S, R3W in Jackson County at 2000' elev. Many conflicting stories and much speculation has clouded the mine's history.
The pocket was 15' deep, 5' wide and 200' long. The outcropping was so full of gold it could not be crushed with a hammer. $700,000.00 was reported taken out by 1860. The only known photo of the original boom town has been questioned as to its authenticity. (see July page) As the vein petered out, numerous tunnels & shafts were sunk, honeycombing the mountain in search of the lead. In 1895 Reinhart & Oliver drifted a 100 ft. tunnel & cross cuts to no avail. In 1949 Stearns & Owens bought the mine from Frank Ray. Excavation for 3 years uncovered ledges of copper and molybdenum but no quantities of gold. In 1952 Virgil Gribble was paid $400.00 to drill to 122' but found no gold. Stearns then sold the mine to Elton Cunningham of Grants Pass. The molybdenum & copper was not exploited.

Many thanks to all the members and officers of the Gold Hill Historical Society that brought in pictures and information and that assisted in putting together our 1994 Calendar of early day gold mining. Acknowledgements are given wherever possible for photos and news items used. The Gold Hill Historical Society assumes no liability either expressed or implied as to accuracy of names, facts, places or dates. We apologise if we have missed or overlooked some important events, places or dates. "The calendar committee"

Unidentified prospector typical of miners of the day, searching for traces of the lost Gold Hill Pocket vein.

(C) 1993 GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 26, Gold Hill, OR 97525
now located at 504 1st Ave., Gold Hill, OR 97525

GOLD HILL, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

THE MINING METROPOLIS OF SOUTHERN OREGON

1995

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GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

gold discovered
1857

est.
1986

recording the past-for the future